

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace ¶ [0025] with the following:

[0025] According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, an accompanying metal mesh belt 15 is associated with at least one of the steel belts 4 or 5 (the upper steel belt 5, as shown in the drawing). The metal mesh belt 15 comprises a material of greater thermal conductivity than the steel belt 4 or 5. The steel belt 4 or 5 and the accompanying metal mesh belt 15 are returned together through an insulating ~~isolating~~ tunnel 16 in order to prevent loss due to thermal radiation and to save energy. The metal mesh belt 15 is heated in a heating tunnel 18, before it enters the press gap 11, to a temperature higher than that of the corresponding steel belt 4 or 5 at the entrance to the press gap 11. In the heating tunnel 18 the metal mesh belt 15 is carried over a lower heating plate 24 with which an upper heating plate 21 may also be associated. The preheating of the metal mesh belt 15 can also be performed by means of a heating roll 20, in which case preferably the last guide pulley 17 ahead of the entrance to the press gap 11 is made to be a heating roll 20. In another embodiment of the present invention, the metal mesh belt 15 may be constantly cleaned by a cleaning brush with an air blast bar and exhaust.